

The FY 2001 Supplemental Budget Request seeks approval for the District to use \$92.5 million in surplus local revenues to address FY 2001 budget pressures, and approval for the Water and Sewer Authority (an enterprise fund) to spend \$2.2 million of its own revenue.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 3.

**Remarks During a Visit to a White House Staff Member at Inova Fairfax Hospital and an Exchange With Reporters in Fairfax, Virginia**

*July 3, 2001*

**The President.** You know, when they come it reminds us of the responsibilities that we have in life. And Vivienne is lucky to have a mother and dad who will love her all the time. And she doesn't know it, yet, but she's learning pretty quickly. She's less than 24 hours old.

We also have a responsibility to make sure education systems provide excellence for every child. We have a responsibility—and Congress needs to bring me a bill that will help the patients who come to these hospitals maintain a reasonable insurance, and a bill that doesn't help lawyers.

We have a responsibility to encourage love all throughout our communities. That's why the faith-based initiative is so important. A lot of babies are born sometimes where the—some babies are born where people just don't love them like they should. And as a society, we've got to make up for that love.

Yesterday I had the opportunity to meet with service organizations all across—representing people from all across the country, committed to finding a million mentors to love children.

The good news for this little baby is she's got a mom and dad who know their responsibilities. It's a great Fourth of July gift.

Congratulations.

Okay.

**Stem Cell Research**

**Q.** Mr. President, do you know when you'll actually make a decision on stem cell research funding?

**The President.** In a while.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 9:30 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Vivienne Anna Sayle, daughter of Desiree Sayle, Director of Correspondence for the First Lady, and attorney Stephen Sayle. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Message on the Observance of Independence Day, 2001**

*July 3, 2001*

Two hundred and twenty-five years ago, the signers of the Declaration of Independence boldly asserted that all are “created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” With these words, the Signers announced the birth of a new Nation and put forth a vision of liberty and democracy that would forever alter history.

Every Fourth of July, Americans celebrate this pivotal moment in our national story, which set into motion the development of a land of freedom and opportunity unequalled in the world. The Declaration brought forth a new style of government, where democratic institutions gained their power from the consent of the governed. Today, we recognize that people around the globe have also drawn inspiration from the Declaration of Independence. Our prosperity and strength stand as a testament to the ideals it embodies.

Independence Day serves as a special time to remember the achievements of our great statesmen, social reformers, inventors, and artists. We pause to give thanks for the many men and women who gave their lives to defend our freedom. At the same time, the Fourth of July provides a unique occasion to reflect on the challenges ahead. By building on the efforts of previous generations and pursuing opportunity and justice for all our

citizens, we will continue our Nation's development and help ensure a brighter future for all Americans.

On this great day, I extend my best wishes to all Americans for a safe and memorable Independence Day. God bless you, and God bless America.

**George W. Bush**

**Remarks at an Independence Day  
Celebration in Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania  
July 4, 2001**

Mr. Mayor, thank you very much. I appreciate so much your hospitality. Laura and I are honored to be here in Philadelphia. It's the perfect place to celebrate our Nation's birthday.

I told the mayor in front of the country when I addressed the Congress that I was coming to Philadelphia to celebrate the wonderful missions that take place in this grand city. Mr. Mayor, thank you for allowing me to come, and thank you for your gracious hospitality. Same to the Governor of this great State, our close friend Tom Ridge and his wife, Michelle. Thank you all very much for your hospitality.

It's an honor to be on the stage with the senior Senator, who married quite well, himself. [*Laughter*] I appreciate you being here, Senator, and the honorable—it's an honor to be on the stage with leaders of the faith community in Philadelphia.

Distinguished guests, my fellow citizens, thank you for your warm welcome.

And thank you, Mr. Mayor, for your lovely gift. Laura and I will make a special place for it at the White House.

Today we celebrate American independence in the place of America's birth, close to a symbol of American liberty. As millions know, to see the Liberty Bell is a moving experience. In America, we set aside certain places and treasures like this to protect them from the passing of the years. We grant them special care to mark a moment in time. Here in Philadelphia, these markers are all around us, reminders of our history.

This is a dynamic and modern city. Yet if the Founders, themselves, were here, they

would know the place. Benjamin Franklin and his wife could still find their way from here to the corner where they first saw each other, at Market and 4th. John Adams could make his way to City Tavern and show us the spot where he first shook the hand of George Washington. Thomas Jefferson would still find waiting for him the room where he drafted the Declaration of Independence. And each of the Founders, coming here, would know the ring of the Liberty Bell. It rang to announce the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence 225 years ago.

Those new citizens of a nation just 4 days old heard inspiring words but not original thoughts. Our Founders considered themselves heirs to principles that were timeless and truths that were self-evident. When Jefferson sat down to write, he was trying, he said, to place before mankind "the common sense of the subject." The common sense of the subject was that we should be free, and though great evils would linger, the world would never be the same after July 4, 1776.

A wonderful country was born, and a revolutionary idea sent forth to all mankind: Freedom, not by the good graces of government but as the birthright of every individual; equality, not as a theory of philosophers but by the design of our Creator; natural rights, not for the few, not even for a fortunate many but for all people in all places, in all times.

The world still echoes with the ideals of America's Declaration. Our ideals have been accepted in many countries and bitterly opposed by tyrants. They are the mighty rock on which we have built our Nation. They are the hope of all who are oppressed. They are the standard to which we hold others, and the standard by which we measure ourselves. Our greatest achievements have come when we have lived up to these ideals. Our greatest tragedies have come when we have failed to uphold them.

When Abraham Lincoln wondered whether civil war was preferable to permanent slavery, he knew where to seek guidance. Speaking in Independence Hall he said, "I have never had a feeling, politically, that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the